



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Contact: Terri Carbaugh
Doug Stone
916/653-6575

Referendum Proponents May Begin Collecting Signatures in Attempt to Overturn Domestic Partner Law

SAN FRANCISCO --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced yesterday that the proponents of a proposed referendum measure may begin collecting signatures to require voter approval before a law recently passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor can take effect.

To qualify a referendum for the ballot, the proponents are required by the California Constitution to submit petition signatures of 373,816 registered voters to county election officials within 90 days from the date the bill is chaptered. Assembly Bill 205 (Goldberg, D – Los Angeles) was chaptered on September 22, 2003. Proponents have until December 21, 2003 to submit petition signatures.

The Attorney General's official title and summary is as follows:

REFERENDUM PETITION TO OVERTURN DOMESTIC PARTNER LAW. If signed by required number of electors and timely filed with the Secretary of State, this petition will prevent implementation of Chapter 421, Statutes of 2003, a statute approved by the Legislature and Governor, unless and until it is approved by majority of voters. Chapter 421 provides registered domestic partners many legal rights and duties available to married couples under California law; does not change federal law, California Constitution or laws adopted by initiative. Chapter 421 modifies procedures for creating a domestic partnership and makes it a misdemeanor to file a false partnership declaration.

Once signatures are submitted to county elections officials for verification, the law that the referendum seeks to repeal is stayed from taking effect until wither the qualification attempt fails or the issue is addressed by the state's voters.

The proponents of the referendum are William J. Knight and Ray Haynes can be reached c/o Chris Burns, 3948 57th Street, Sacramento, CA 95820

For a copy of the complete text, title & summary, and circulation calendar, please contact the Secretary of State's Press Office at (916) 653-6575.